

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 HA-05 IO-13 AID-05
SY-05 MCT-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 A-01 OPR-02 CA-01
OC-06 CCO-00 ACDA-12 USSS-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICAE-00
SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /112 W
-----083214 111642Z /72

O R 111545Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7562
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2043

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PINT MILI ASEC LE
SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION, APRIL 11, 1600 HOURS LOCAL

REF: BEIRUT 2011 (DTG 101330Z APR 78)

1. FIGHTING ALONG TRADITIONAL CONFRONTATION LINE BETWEEN
AYN AR-RUMANNAH AND SHIYAH, WHICH HAD BROKEN OUT APRIL 9
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AND DIED DOWN MORNING APRIL 10, RESUMED AFTERNOON APRIL
10 AND IS CONTINUING AT THIS TIME. EMBOFFS AND MARINE
SECURITY GUARDS HAVE OBSERVED CONSIDERABLE RIFLE AND
AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE AS WELL AS INTERMITTENT ARTILLERY
AND TANK FIRE THROUGHOUT DAY.

2. ON APRIL 10 ADF HAD ISSUED ORDERS TO "SHOOT ON SIGHT"

ANY ARMED MEN SEEN IN AREA. AFTERNOON OF APRIL 11 SYRIANS MOVED ARMORED TANK BATTALION INTO AREA AND BEGAN ENGAGING BOTH CHRISTIANS AND LEBANESE LEFTISTS. (WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE SO FAR OF PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION. EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE HELD UP BY GUNMEN IN AREA ON APRIL 10 NOW SAYS THEY WERE LEBANESE SHIA, NOT PALESTINIANS. SEE BEIRUT 2011).

3. EMBOFFS OBSERVED ARMED MILITIA THROUGHOUT CHRISTIAN SUBURB OF FURN ASH SHUBBAK AS WELL AS TWO ARMED LEBANESE LEFTIST MILITIA IN CORNICHE MAZRA AREA. ELSEWHERE, HOWEVER, LIFE IN CITY APPEARED NORMAL. TRAFFIC IN ASHRAFIYAH AND ACROSS CITY ON CHEHAB EXPRESSWAY, FOR EXAMPLE, IS NORMAL.

4. NLP SOURCES CLAIM THAT DANY CHAMOUN APRIL 10 MADE AGREEMENT WITH LOCAL SYRIAN COMMANDERS TO FACILITATE THEIR ENTRY INTO AREA AND THAT HIS PARTY IS COOPERATING WITH SYRIANS, WHO ARE BEING FIRED ON BY KATAEB. RELIABLE LEBANESE JOURNALIST, HOWEVER, TELLS US SYRIANS ARE EXCHANGING FIRE WITH NLP AS WELL AS LEFTISTS.

5. CAUSE OF ORIGINAL APRIL 9 INCIDENT REMAINS OBSCURE. NUMEROUS THEORIES HAVE BEEN ADVANCED, FROM PERSONAL QUARREL, TO KIDNAPPING, TO SYRIAN PLOT DESIGNED TO GIVE ADF PRETEXT FOR WIPING OUT MILITIA. FIGHTING APRIL
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9 AND 10 RESULTED IN AT LEAST SEVEN PEOPLE KILLED, INCLUDING ONE SUDANESE ADF SOLDIER, AND 27 PEOPLE WOUNDED, ACCORDING TO INDEPENDENT AN NAHAR APRIL 11.)

6. PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP DOES NOT APPEAR ANXIOUS TO EXPLOIT SITUATION. ARTICLE IN PLO PAPER FALASTIN AL-THAWRA ON APRIL 10 "WARNED ALL LEBANESE FORCES AGAINST FALLING INTO THE TRAP OF INTERNECINE FIGHTING" (SEPTTEL).

7. PIERRE GEMAYEL TOLD PRESS APRIL 10 THAT "90 PERCENT OF LEBANESE CHRISTIANS AND MOSLEMS AND 90 PERCENT OF PALESTINIANS WHO ARE LOYAL TO THEIR CAUSE DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE." BACHIR GEMAYEL BLAMED THE FIGHTING ON A "PALESTINIAN-LEFTIST-REJECTIONIST" ATTEMPT TO CAUSE TROUBLE.
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NNN

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